

Message Text

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15

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAB-01 SSM-03 EB-07 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /081 W

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FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4324

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN V

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

C O N F I D E N T I A L ABU DHABI 1267

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS : PFOR, EEC, EX, TC

SUBJECT: UK-UAE RELATIONS; ARAB-EUROPEAN DIALOGUE

1. BRITISH AMBASSADOR MCCARTHY MADE FOLLOWING COMMENTS TO ME ABOUT RECENT UAE-UK TALKS IN LONDON, WHICH HE ATTENDED. FOREIGN MINISTER SUWAIDI HEADED UAE SIDE.

2. AGENDA WAS SUPPOSED TO BE DETAILED ONE COVERING NUMBER OF SPECIFIC ISSUES IN UAE-UK RELATIONS, BUT
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SUWAIDI AT OUTSET ASKED THAT DISCUSSIONS STAY "IN GENERAL

TERMS" (MCCARTHY SUSPECTS THIS WAS BECAUSE SUWAIDI HADN'T READ HIS BRIEFING BOOK). SUWAIDI MADE LONG PLEA FOR BRITAIN TO TAKE MORE ACTIVE LEAD AS FRIEND OF ARABS IN EC AFFAIRS. HE WENT ON TO ASK FOR BRITISH SUPPORT FOR WHAT HE DESCRIBED AS ARAB DECISION TO REQUEST THAT REPRESENTATION AT FORTHCOMING EURO-ARAB GENERAL COMMISSION MEETING BE RASIDED TO MINISTERIAL LEVEL. ACCORDING TO MCCARTHY BRITISH REACTED NEGATIVELY TO PROPOSAL AND SAID THEY MOREOVER DID NOT THINK THIS WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO MOST OTHER EC PARTNERS. IN RESPONSE TO GENERAL PITCH FOR GREATER UK SUPPORT FOR ARABS, BRITISH SIDE, ACCORDING TO MCCARTHY, SAID HMG ALL IN FAVOR OF DIALOGUE AND CLOSER EUROPEAN-ARAB RELATIONS, BUT IT WOULD HAVE TO TAKE PLACE WITHOUT CROSSING WIRES WITH US EFFORTS TO PROMOTE ARAB-ISRAEL NEGOTIATIONS. UAE SIDE APPARENTLY DID NOT OFFER COUNTER-ARGUMENT TO THIS PROPOSITION.

3. UAE DELEGATION WAS RECEIVED BY PRIME MINISTER CALLAGHAN. MCCARTHY SAID PM DOES NOT USUALLY MEET FOREIGN MINISTERS BUT DID SO ON THIS OCCASION BECAUSE HE HAD HIT IT OFF VERY WELL WITH SUWAIDI WHEN HE VISITED ABU DHABI LAST YEAR. MEETING WAS GENIAL BUT CONFINED TO GENERALITIES. MCCARTHY SAID ARABS SEEM PERSUADED CALLAGHAN IS DISTINCTLY LESS PRO-ISRAEL THAN WILSON. WHEN I ASKED MCCARTHY HIS OWN VIEW OF THAT, HE SAID HE THOUGHT ARAB PERCEPTIONS IN THIS INSTANCE WERE ON THE MARK.

4. ON THEIR PART, BRITISH URGED UAEG TO GIVE GREATER CONCERN TO MAINTENANCE OF "OLD TIES" WITH BRITAIN. THEY SAID GREAT INFLUX OF OTHER FOREIGNERS WAS CAUSING EROSION OF THESE TIES THAT UAEG ITSELF MIGHT COME TO REGRET. ACCORDING TO MCCARTHY SUWAIDI REACTED POSITIVELY TO THEME AND DISCUSSION STARTED ON SPECIFIC COURSES OF ACTION. BUT, SAID MCCARTHY, EVERYTHING WILL DEPEND ON FOLLOW-UP IN ABU DHABI, AND IN ATMOSPHERE OF DISORGANIZATION THAT PREVAILS HERE THIS WILL BE VERY DIFFICULT.
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